CHAPTER VI THE LANDING IN EGYPT *

Visions of Oriental Conquest — The Surrender of Malta — Nelson Deceived — The Mamelukes — The Skirmishes at Shebreket and the Pyramids — The Emptiness of Success — Pkns for Conquering Asia — The Battle of the Nile — Effects on European Policies.

departure of the Egyptian expedition from JL Toulon, on May nineteenth, 1798, was thus far the greatest occasion of Bonaparte's life. Josephine, apparently no longer the light Creole, but seemingly transformed by the successes and responsibilities of the last two years into a fond and outwardly judicious helpmate, bade him a tender farewell. There had been checks in his brilliant career, but so far they had been temporary; as for the present hour, he believed, as he afterward told Mme. de Remusat, that it might be his last in France. Mental fabrics of an Oriental splendor, visions of an empire bestriding three continents, dreams of potentates and powers far eclipsing those of western Europe — license Hke this intoxicates the imagination and disorders common minds. Such plans seem fantastic to the multitude, but what else than their realization is in sober reality the British empire of to-day? The rank and file of Bonaparte's army might not see

JMahan: Life of Nelson. Jurien delaGravifere: Guerres Maritimeg. Harcourt: figypte et les figyptiens. Gourgaud: Journal. Desvernois: Memoirs, ed. Defourg. (The editor has enriched his pages from Arab sources.) Desgenettes: Histoire m6dicale de 1'Armee d'Orient. Ducasse: Les rois frfcres de NapolSon. The memoirs of de R&nusat, Belliard, Savary, and Berthier.